

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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FM AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3372

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL FUKUOKA (BY POUCH)

AMCONSUL SAPPORO (BY POUCH)

AMCONSUL NAHA (BY POUCH)

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSAKA KOBE 0242

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: 3-WAY GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION RACE SET IN KYOTO

REF: OSAKA-KOBE 144 AND 182

SUMMARY: FIELD OF CONTESTANTS FOR 3-WAY KYOTO GUBERNATORIAL RACE
FINALLY SHAPED UP THIS WEEK. CONTEST PROMISES TO BE CLOSE.
LOCAL ALIANCES AND FEUDS ARE LIKELY TO MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR
ANY OF CNADIDATES TO COUNT CONFIDENTLY ON ORGANIZATION VOTES,
AND LATE DECISIONS ON NOMINATIONS SET STAGE FOR SHORT, INTENSE
AND BITTER CAMPAIGN. THIS IN TURN MAY LEAVE SCARS ON INTER-PARTY
RELATIONS FOR OTHER UP-COMING PREFECTURAL ELECTIONS AND AT
NATIONAL LEVEL. END SUMMARY.

1. LDP, AFTER REPORTEDLY DEEP DIVISIONS ON STRATEGY AT CENTRAL LEVEL

,
GAVE FORMAL APPROVAL MARCH 2 TO CANDIDACY (NOMINALLY AS INDEPENDENT)
OF UPPER HOUSE MEMBER YUKIO HAYASHIDA. NEW LIBERAL CLUB ANNOUNCED
ITS SUPPORT FOR HAYASHIDA AND HE ALSO APPEALED FOR DSP SUPPORT.
KYOTO BUSINESS CIRCLES PRIVATELY MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THEY INTEND
TO GIVE ALL-OUT SUPPORT TO HAYASHIDA. HE IS FIRST CANDIDATE TO
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RUN FOR KYOTO GOVERNOR WITH SUPPORT ONLY OF CONSERVATIVES IN 16
YEARS. PRESTIGE OF LOCAL LDP CHAPTER IS DEEPLY INVOLVED SINCE THEY
MADE REPEATED AND EMOTIONAL APPEALS TO PARTY HEADQUARTERS TO
APPROVE HAYASHIDA NOMINATION AT LIKELY COST OF UPPER HOUSE SEAT,
BECAUSE OF LOCAL CHAPTER'S DISLIKE OF JSP-KOMEITO ALLIANCE CANDIDATE
YAMADA (JSP DIET MEMBER) WHO HAD ALSO HOPED TO PICK UP DSP SUPPORT
AND LDP ACQUIESCENCE. IF HAYASHIDA DOES NOT WIN, KYOTO LDP CHAPTER

AND ITS FAVORITE SON DIET MEMBER MAEO WILL HAVE GOOD DEAL OF EXPLAINING TO DO TO THE REST OF THE PARTY.

2. TWO DAYS AFTER HAYASHIDA CANDIDACY DECIDED, INCUMBENT GOVERNOR NINAGAWA ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD NOT SEEK RE-ELECTION, AND DESIGNATED KYOTO UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR MASATOSHI SUGIMURA AS PREFERENCE FOR SUCCESSOR. JCP AND GROUP OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS BACKING NINAGAWA THEN PUT THE QUESTION TO SUGIMURA WHO ANNOUNCED MARCH 5 THAT HE WOULD RUN.

3. IN MEANTIME, JSP-KOMEITO CANDIDATE YAMADA PICKED UP ENDORSEMENT FROM SOCIALIST CITIZENS LEAGUE, AND KYOTO DOMEI CHAIRMAN CALLED ON DSP TO BACK YAMADA. HOWEVER SHARP DIVISIONS WITH PREFECTURAL DSP CHAPTER KEPT PARTY TOSSING THE HOT POTATO BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN KYOTO AND TOKYO PARTY HEADQUARTERS UNTIL MARCH 11, WHEN FORMER CHAIRMAN KASUGA AND ELECTION POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MUKAI PERSUADED KYOTO DSP TO ANNOUNCE "SUPPORT" FOR YAMADA. ACTION TAKEN IS WEAKEST POSSIBLE ENDORSEMENT UNDER DSP REGULATIONS AND ACCORDING TO STATEMENT OF KASUGA AT MARCH 11 PRESS CONFERENCE IS NOT BINDING IN TERMS OF PARTY DISCIPLINE. DSP THEREFORE HAS NOT REALLY RESOLVED ITS QUANDARY OF MAINTAINING "SHAKOMIN" ALLIANCE IN KYOTO WITHOUT ALIENATING ANTI-YAMADA PARTY MEMBERS. DSP INABILITY TO TAKE A FIRM POSITION HAS PROBABLY COST IT CONSIDERABLE LOSS OF INFLUENCE IN KYOTO AND CERTAINLY IS NOT LIKELY TO IMPRESS JSP OR KOMEITO WITH FIRMNESS OF DSP ALLEGIANCE TO "SHAKOMIN" LINE. CONFIDENTIAL

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RESULTING 3-WAY RACE APPEARS AT PRESENT TO BE A TOSS-UP. MUCH OF DSP VOTE, AND SOME DOMEI VOTE WILL PROBABLY GO TO HAYASHIDA INSTEAD OF YAMADA. SOHYO IS CERTAINLY DIVIDED BETWEEN YAMADA AND SUGIMURA. YAMADA MAY HAVE OUT-SMARTED HIMSELF BY COMING OUT STRONGLY AGAINST NINAGAWA AS WELL AS JCP AT EARLY STAGE WHEN HE HOPED LDP WOULD NOT FIELD ITS OWN CANDIDATE. HAYASHIDA ON OTHER HAND HAS AVOIDED PERSONAL ATTACKS ON NINAGAWA AND NINAGAWA HAS RESPONDED BY CRITICIZING YAMADA MORE STRONGLY THAN LDP RIVAL.

4. ALTHOUGH SUGIMURA HAS RIGHT CONNECTIONS (KYOTO UNIVERSITY AS WELL AS JCP ENDORSEMENT) HE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE PERSONALLY STRONG CANDIDATE AND SEGMENT OF PRO-NINAGAWA INTELLECTUAL VOTE MAY GO TO HAYASHIDA.

5. IN ANY EVENT AN ERA IN HISTORY OF REGIONAL LEFT-WING POLITICS IS PASSING WITH NINAGAWA'S RETIREMENT. EMOTIONAL CELEBRATION OF HIS 81ST BIRTHDAY FEBRUARY 24 (HE RESPONDED WARMLY TO MY "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" TELEGRAM) AND HIS MOVING FAREWELL ADDRESS TO PREFECTURAL ASSEMBLY SERVED TO POINT UP THE FACT THAT THE LEFT-WING IN KANSAI HAS NO PERSONALITY TO REPLACE HIM. AINSWORTH

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